

## Upcoming Events

### VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Application Website Workshops

March 7 and 15, 2001  
Michigan Library & Historical Center, Lansing, MI  
The Notice of Funding Availability, mailed in late February 2001, will provide further details.

### \*Valuing Cultural Diversity

March 8, 2001  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  
Information: Karen Sherman at (517) 432-3594  
karen.sherman@ssc.msu.edu  
(Open to MVAA graduates only)

### Jackson Katz – Sexual Assault Prevention Training

March 20, 2001; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn West, Lansing, MI  
Information: Maria Chickering (of MCADSV) at (517) 347-7000 ext.21

### Ellen Pence – Advanced Training for Domestic Violence Service Providers

March 28, 2001; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn South, Lansing, MI  
Information: Maria Chickering (of MCADSV) at (517) 347-7000 ext. 21

### Leadership in Victim Services

April 5-7, 2001  
Washington, DC  
Information: Victims' Assistance Legal Organization at (877) 748-NVAA  
www.nvaa.org

### Volunteer Management: Attracting and Keeping the Best

April 19, 2001  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Information: (734) 998-0160

### National Restorative Justice Training Institute, 2001

April 20, May 17-19, June 11-16, July 10-13, September 6-8, 2001  
St. Paul, MN  
Information: (612) 624-4923  
rjp@che.umn.edu; <http://ssw.che.umn.edu/rjp/Training/Training.htm>

### National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2001

April 22-28, 2001  
Theme: Reach for the Stars  
National Crime Victims' Rights Week Guide: Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center at (800) 627-6872  
Information: Victims' Assistance Legal Organization at (703) 748-0811; webmaster@ncvc.org

### \*Coordinated Community Response

May 10, 2001  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  
Information: Karen Sherman at (517) 432-3594  
karen.sherman@ssc.msu.edu  
(Open to MVAA graduates only)

### \*VOCA Program Evaluation Trainings – Cris Sullivan

May 16, 2001 - Kellogg Center at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  
May 23, 2001 - McGuire's Resort, Cadillac, MI  
Information: David Bercham at (517) 324-8388; dbercham@mphi.org

### \*Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council / Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan Victim Rights Seminar

June 6-8, 2001  
Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI  
Information: Terri Young at (517) 334-6060 ext. 815;  
Jennifer Eacker at (517) 334-6060 ext. 816

### \*Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence - Women of Color Institute 2001

June 23-24, 2001  
Battle Creek, MI  
Information: Angelita Velasco at (517) 347-7000 ext. 22

### \*Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Annual Statewide Conference

June 25-27, 2001  
Battle Creek, MI  
Information: Maria Chickering at (517) 347-7000 ext. 21

### \*Michigan Victim Assistance Academy

July 15-20, 2001  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  
Information: Karen Sherman at (517) 432-3594  
karen.sherman@ssc.msu.edu

### \*MVAA Advanced Training

September 19-21, 2001  
Battle Creek, MI  
Information: Karen Sherman at (517) 432-3594  
karen.sherman@ssc.msu.edu  
(Open to MVAA graduates only)

### \* VOCA travel funds approved



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James K. Haveman, Jr., Director

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# The Michigan Advocate

A publication of the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission

Winter 2001

## Update from the CVSC

■ By Michael J. Fullwood, Director, Crime Victim Services Commission

Greetings! We are pleased and greatly honored by Senator William Van Regenmorter's contribution to this issue of *The Michigan Advocate*. The Crime Victim Services Commission owes its existence, resources, and the heart and soul of its mission to legislative initiatives authored by the Senator. Crime victims and advocates across Michigan know him as a friend they can turn to, and we thank him for this timely update on crime victims' rights.

I also wish to thank our other contributors, Suzanne Kensington, Women's Center, Inc. in Marquette; Mary Lee Lord, Women's Resource Center in Traverse City; Ruth Oja, Hannahville Indian Community; Mary Keefe, Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Lee Gallay, Family Resource Center in Kalamazoo; and Nancy Skula, Carehouse in Mount Clemens. These colleagues exemplify the diverse nature of victim services in Michigan and the thoughtfulness of its practitioners.

### NEW VICTIM COMPENSATION APPLICATION

The commission has revised the compensation program application with an eye towards more effective usage for crime victims and advocates. Large-scale distribution will start within the next month. In addition, a PDF format is being developed and will be available on-line later this year. To request a sample copy of the application, call (517) 373-7373.

### ON-LINE VOCA VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

We are concluding the testing phase for the on-line grant application. Statewide training sessions will be held in March and all applicants will be strongly encouraged to use this powerful web-based tool in the upcoming grant cycle. Developed by Agate Software of East Lansing, the SIGMA (State Integrated Grant Management Application) system features helpful edits for more accurate completion of the forms, narratives and budget screens by users applying for VOCA grants.

### MICHIGAN CRIME VICTIM NOTIFICATION NETWORK 800-770-7657

Automated victim notification for important offender and criminal case information will soon be an everyday reality throughout Michigan. Developed for the Michigan Department of Community Health by Appriss, provider of the VINE Service, this system is currently going on-line, county-by-county, to provide victims with essential information from the Michigan Department of Corrections, county jails, and prosecutors. Brochures and posters explaining this service are available by fax-order from the Michigan Resource Center. Call (800) 353-8227 to have an order form faxed to you.

### COMMISSION NEWS

Governor Engler recently reappointed Commissioners William A. Forsyth, Kent County prosecuting attorney, and the

Reverend Dr. Laura E. Foster to new three-year terms. Congratulations to both of these hard-working voices for victims.

On November 7, 2000 Michael F. Skinner was elected probate judge in Eaton County. We know that he will be a strong voice for justice and families and we wish him well in his new duties.

*The Crime Victim Services Commission, Michigan Department of Community Health, administers federal VOCA grants, the Crime Victim Compensation program, state Crime Victims Rights Fund grants, and the Michigan Crime Victim Notification Network (VINE) project. The Commission sponsors the Michigan Victim Assistance Academy at Michigan State University, the Sexual Assault Systems Response Task Force of the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Crime Victims Rights Act training project of the Michigan Judicial Institute, and various Crime Victims' Rights Week activities.*

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# The Evolution of Crime Victim Rights in Michigan

■ By Senator William Van Regenmorter

In writing the Crime Victim’s Rights Act in 1985, it was difficult to predict what its effect would be at the fifteenth anniversary. The act was the first comprehensive response to a lack of concern for victims throughout the criminal justice process. The Crime Victim’s Rights Act, for the first time, provided victims with unprecedented legal rights and became a model that many other states followed in creating their own laws to protect crime victims.

## What Crime Victim Rights Mean In Michigan

Among many other provisions, the act requires every victim to receive complete notice of their rights beginning with a written notice from the investigating law enforcement agency followed by the full list of rights from the prosecutor’s office. One right is to have consultation with the prosecutor about the case, including potential plea bargains. In fact, the prosecutor is required to consult with the victim before finalizing a plea agreement. The victim has the right to attend the trial and any other hearings which the defendant is entitled to attend. Attendance at trial, the victim impact statement and restitution are all integral components of the act. If the defendant is incarcerated following the sentence, the victim has the right to notice of escape or of transfers to non-secure facilities or programs. The victim has the right to address the parole board before a parole decision is made and may challenge a parole board decision in circuit court.

After observing three years of implementation of the Crime Victim’s Rights Act, thanks to the outstanding work of victim witness coordinators around the state, I felt it was time to balance the Michigan Constitution that reflected no rights for victims whatsoever. I introduced my resolution to place a constitutional amendment for victims’ rights on the ballot. Victims, victim advocates, and other people of goodwill volunteered statewide to help a successful effort, resulting in the November passage of the constitutional amendment by an overwhelming majority vote. On December 24, 1988, Article I, Section 24 of the Michigan Constitution went into effect, a fitting Christmas Eve gift to the citizens of Michigan. Then, in the early 1990s, a Federal Victim’s Rights Act was approved using much of the language from Michigan’s constitutional amendment.

## New Victim Rights on the Horizon

As a result of my close working relationship with victim coordinators and advocates around the state, it became clear that there were further measures the Michigan Legislature could enact that would build upon the rights of victims. Recently I introduced Senate Bill 1180, which will further protect the privacy of victims, expand restitution, ensure victims’ rights (even in informal juvenile cases involving serious crime) and provide for prompt notice to victims when significant appeals court decisions affect their case.

This is a brief description of the additions to the Crime Victim’s Rights Act, which are consistent with my intent in writing the original law and will help keep Michigan at the forefront of granting victims fundamental rights. The

empowerment of crime victims in our state has energized their involvement with the criminal justice system, an involvement that has improved the system in a way that none of us could have imagined 15 years ago. It is clear that justice is served and citizens are protected when victim rights are strongly established in law and implemented by victim advocates.

*(Senate Bill 1180 was signed into law January 10, 2001 by Governor Engler as Public Act 503 of 2000 –Ed.)*



The Senator is Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is known as a thoughtful, hard working lawmaker who is the author of some of Michigan’s most significant laws. The laws enacted and issues addressed include: The Crime Victim’s Rights Act; Truth in Sentencing; domestic violence; home invasion; principal sponsor of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act; provisions for faster resolution of child abuse cases; DNA profiling; establishment of Family Court; and coordination of public services for persons with disabilities. As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Van Regenmorter is the only legislator to successfully author two constitutional amendments.

Senator Van Regenmorter is the founder of The Crime Victim Foundation. He has been named “Legislator of the Year” in Michigan eight times and was also named “National Legislator of the Year” by the National Center for Victims of Crime in Washington, D.C., an honor accorded to only one legislator in the country.

**Questions regarding CVSC Programs may be directed to the Program Specialist:**

Crime Victims Assistance/VOCA Grants:  
Leslie O’Reilly (517) 373-1826


Crime Victims Compensation Claims/Restitution Coordination:  
Marian Smith (517) 373-0594 or Janine Washburn (517) 373-3640

Crime Victims Rights/Victim Notification:  
Beth Adcock (517) 373-1902

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Beth O’Leary, Michigan Public Health Institute (517) 324-8387  
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The Crime Victim Services Technical Assistance Project is supported by Award No. 2000-VA-GX-0026 awarded to the Michigan Public Health Institute by the Michigan Department of Community Health, Crime Victim Services Commission. The grant award comes from the Federal Crime Victims Funds, established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984.

# VAWA Reauthorization Means \$3.3 Billion Over Five Years

■ By Mary Keefe, MSW, Executive Director, Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization bill passed the Senate overwhelmingly (95-0) on October 11, 2000, after passing the House (371-1) the previous week. The bill became part of the Sex Trafficking Conference Report and former President Clinton signed it into law on October 28.

During debates over the bill, several senators spoke in support of VAWA. Both Michigan senators also put their strong support for the bill in the congressional record, talking specifically about how this legislation impacted Michigan. Former Senator Spencer Abraham’s testimony mentioned a number of specific survivor stories and detailed the legislation’s impact on battered immigrant women. Senator Carl Levin’s testimony gave a real life example of how one advocate in a rural county in Michigan, funded by the Services for Training for Officers and Prosecutors (STOP) grant, has made a difference in the lives of battered women.

This bill more than doubles the amount of money authorized in the original Violence Against Women Act to fund essential programs and services for battered women, including the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

The new VAWA legislation also provides funding for state and local grant programs that address stalking and domestic violence, and for programs that train child protective service workers and judges. It also supports programs that address teen dating violence, domestic violence in the workplace, the enforcement of orders of protection, and that support children who witness domestic violence.

We at MCADSV are grateful to each of our domestic violence and sexual assault service providers who have worked very hard in each of their communities to make the vision of VAWA a reality. Reauthorization was a local, state and national imperative

because we were witness to its benefits each and every day in our work with survivors. Now that we have VAWA reauthorized, we can continue our work secure in the knowledge that this major federal investment in ending violence against women will continue. The fervent calls and letters of every advocate ensured that those who would affect the legislation’s fate knew that VAWA was indeed making a huge difference in Michigan. We are also grateful to the leadership and hard work of our VAWA state administrator and the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, which has thoughtfully, creatively and consistently demonstrated outstanding stewardship of these funds.

MCADSV has just begun to analyze the particulars of how this legislation will impact our state. If you are interested in learning more, contact our office at (517) 347-7000.

**THE NEW LEGISLATION AUTHORIZES A TOTAL OF \$3.3 BILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. IT INCLUDES:**

- \$925 million in Services for Training for Officers and Prosecutors (STOP) grants;
- \$200 million to provide civil and legal services to victims of domestic and sexual violence;
- \$875 million for shelter services for battered women;
- \$140 million to address violence against women on college campuses;

- Programs to fund transitional housing for women fleeing domestic violence;
- Grant programs to help service providers address the needs of women with disabilities who are victims of domestic and sexual violence; and
- Significant protections for battered immigrant women, who can face immigration law consequences if they seek to flee from or support prosecution of their abuser.

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An Indian victimized by crime may be aided greatly in the healing process by being given the opportunity to use traditional healing methods. Those methods are numerous and will vary from individual to individual, as well as from tribe to tribe. A few of the more common healing practices that are generally accepted within many tribal communities include the smudge, talking circle, sweatlodge and utilization of traditional or spiritual healers’ support. All of these practices are designed to help restore balance to one or more of the wellness areas described earlier.

Through education of service providers about Indian healing practices, victim services can truly begin to meet the unique needs of all crime victims. The information in this article is merely the tip of the iceberg, but more information will be forthcoming in a future *Michigan Advocate*. I believe that with a deeper understanding of cultural differences we can all work together, tribal VOCA personnel and non-tribal VOCA personnel, to enhance service delivery systems and address the isolation that many Indian people experience when accessing non-tribal services.

# Indian Healing Techniques in Victim Services

■ By Ruth Oja, Victims of Crime Advocate, Hannahville Indian Community

Programs working to support crime victims have always recognized and acknowledged the fact that ethnically or culturally diverse groups of people face special issues when seeking support services. The purpose of this article is to acquaint victim service providers with traditional Indian healing techniques. It's important to avoid stereotyping and not assume that all Indian people will use traditional tools as a part of their healing process. The Indian population is extremely diverse: tribes differ from other tribes and tribal members differ from one another. The information here is not intended to describe how all Indian people think. It is intended to be helpful in a general way for those service providers who wish to become more cross-culturally competent in understanding the options available to individuals choosing to use traditional healing techniques.

In very basic terms and from a traditional perspective, crime victimization is thought of as an event

that happens to the whole individual. Symbolically the medicine wheel is a circle divided into four equal quadrants or areas of wellness: the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of an individual's life. At any given moment these can be in a state of harmony or disharmony. The traditional belief that all things are interconnected helps to form the basis for teachings and techniques regarding the medicine wheel. For example, if I experience injury in one area of wellness, I will be out of balance in all wellness areas, because all things are interconnected.

If I use the word crime and divide it into two sections, *cri* and *me*, *cri* would relate to the external intervention process or crime response investigation. Traditional healing models are designed solely to provide intervention for the *me* portion of the crime, that is, the internal process that I as a victim am experiencing. Traditional healing models, with regard to crime victims, would be that part of

programming designed to aid an individual in the restoration of personal wellness, or in the re-establishment of harmony or balance.

One of the major benefits of incorporating traditional healing is that the re-establishment of a victim's sense of well-being is not dependent on a criminal conviction or some other case outcome. Traditional healing practices can enhance a victim's ability to tap into a sense of personal power, with or without positive outcomes in the external events connected to the crime. From a traditional perspective, the criminal case is part of the perpetrator's event. It represents the perpetrator's disharmony because the crime resulted from this person's behavior. As a victim, I may be part of that event by choosing to participate in the criminal justice system's response or by taking advantage of any tool for my protection and safety, but those things are external to my healing process.

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local physicians send closed-head injury patients to volunteer, expecting that the work will improve their fine and gross motor skills. One such patient was recognized by the WRC as volunteer of the year.

Donated clothing and household goods are given to the WRC clients. Once client needs are met, any additional merchandise is sold to help fund Helen's House, an emergency domestic violence shelter for women and children. Donated yarn is saved and given to knitters who create festive afghans that are sold in the store to support Helen's House. Many goods are also donated to other community organizations and are made available to community members on an emergency basis.

The Thrift Shoppe is marketed through advertising, merchandising and creative pricing. A moderate percentage of gross sales is budgeted for advertising, particularly to solicit donations and to promote quarterly special sales such as the annual July Tent Sale. Examples of merchandising techniques include displaying newly-acquired merchandise separately from other items, presenting full-figure sizes in a positive manner, arranging furniture and household items in close proximity to each other, and displaying antiques in a promotional corner called Helen's Attic. During the holidays the staff also selects a special, large, donated, stuffed animal

for a customer drawing. Examples of creative pricing include giving away unsold items after a reasonable time period and providing customers with punch cards that give them \$5 for every \$50 spent.

The financial plan is to maintain a 30 percent to 50 percent profit margin throughout the fiscal year. Expenses are analyzed on a monthly basis. If sales fall below acceptable levels, expenses are reduced.

Given that donations are sought on a continual basis, and never refused, the WRC has been able to assist many individuals outside of the agency as well. For instance, broken electronic components are given to the 4-H and Traverse Bay area students to reassemble as a learning project. Donated jersey sweatshirts and sweatpants are given to needy elementary school children and to rape victims who are examined in hospital emergency rooms. Church groups receive donated blankets that they use to make sleeping bags for the homeless, and a local organization receives clothing for Hispanic families. The shop's employees and volunteers collect necklaces, coats and prom dresses for nursing homes where they are used for bingo gifts and an annual dance. These are only a few of the agency's charitable activities. Thanks in great part to the Thrift Shoppe the lives of many people, as well as the WRC clients, are improved.

# Third Annual Michigan VOCA Council of Advocates Meeting

■ By Michael J. Fullwood, Director, Crime Victim Services Commission and D. Thomas Nelson, Program Coordinator, Michigan Public Health Institute

On December 6, 2000, the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission (CVSC) and the Michigan Public Health Institute hosted the Third Annual Michigan VOCA Council of Advocates Meeting at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Each year, a small group of advocates and administrators from VOCA-funded agencies come together to discuss various issues related to victim services and VOCA grant administration in Michigan.

This year, the full-day meeting was attended by advocates and administrators from Detroit, the Hannahville Indian Community, Lansing, Mt. Clemens, Pontiac and Saginaw.

The meeting's agenda included: 1) remarks from the CVSC followed by open discussion and a question & answer period; 2) the revised Crime Victim Compensation Application; 3) discussion of program evaluation training workshops; 4) a demonstration of the forthcoming VOCA on-line grant application process; 5) an update on the VOCA Grant Compliance Review & Needs Assessment; 6) *The Michigan Advocate* newsletter. We have included excerpts from the Q&A period below.

If you are interested in a free copy of the full meeting summary, please contact Thomas Nelson at (517) 324-8385 or tnelson@mphi.org.

- Q.

Please give a brief history of the Victims of Crime Act and VOCA in Michigan.
- A.

The Victims' Movement was largely a result of the Women's Movement in the 1970s. During the early 1980s, reports from the U.S. Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime and the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime were published, advocating significantly greater protections and services for crime victims. Members of Congress and national advocacy organizations also called for such action. It was becoming unacceptable that victims were considered an afterthought in the criminal justice system and victim services were much needed. In 1984, the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) was passed. Collections of fines and forfeitures from federal offenses started in 1985. In 1986, CVSC began awarding VOCA grants in Michigan. Since 1986, annual statewide VOCA funding has increased from \$1.4 million to over \$12.7 million. The number of Michigan VOCA grantee agencies has increased from 50 to 103 and funds support well over 200 positions statewide. Hundreds of thousands of VOCA-funded services are provided each year to over 100,000 victims.
- Q.

VOCA guidelines seem to allow many options for match, but only volunteer hours seem acceptable in Michigan. With the ever-dwindling labor force as a result of the strong economy and welfare reform, volunteers are increasingly harder to come by. Is anything else, such as donated space, services, etc., acceptable as match?
- A.

VOCA guidelines allow many options for match funding. Volunteer hours are acceptable in Michigan, but they are not the only thing that is acceptable. Whatever is listed as match must be that which could otherwise be supportable by federal funds. Match has been consistently defined as non-federal resources under VOCA. For example, if the space utilized by the project is rented and this rent is donated to the agency, then it can be used as match. However, an occupancy charge is not allowable as match. Again, such space or rent must meet the qualifications for

- federal funding. Originally, agencies welcomed the use of volunteer hours as match instead of cash, as volunteers were often in abundance. It is understandable that other sources of funding may be used as match now that volunteer numbers are generally down. However, if an agency requests funding for a volunteer coordinator position, CVSC will rely heavily on volunteers to constitute that agency's match. Other non-federally funded paid staff can constitute match, and such valuations should be based on similarly-paid staff. If you have questions specific to your individual agency, CVSC can help you identify potential areas for match. Whatever allowable match is proposed, grantees should feel confident that they will meet their proposed match during the grant year.
- Q.

How do grantees determine and assign competitive wages for VOCA grant paid staff?
- A.

CVSC does not set policy for staff salaries and believes advocates should be paid what they are worth. VOCA-funded agencies should submit reasonable salary line item(s) in the grant application's budget detail. A participant indicated that often non-VOCA grants are less generous with respect to salary levels. These lower salary allowances from non-VOCA grants effectively cap the salaries that VOCA-funded staff can be given by an agency in order to be equitable to all staff members.
- Q.

The need for language interpreters is unpredictable. Is there a way to be able to use them on an ad hoc basis without having to do a contract amendment for a small amount each time?
- A.

Grantees are required to provide this service to those who need it. Interpreter costs are supported by VOCA, and can be handled through the contract amendment process. When requesting funds for interpreter costs, please contact CVSC Program Specialist Leslie O'Reilly. She will incorporate all contract amendment requests for interpreters into one amendment for the full fiscal year. Approving a base amount for this service under the "Other" budget category is also being discussed.



# Systemic Changes Benefit Child Victims of Abuse

■ *By Lee Gallay, Program Coordinator, Family Resource Center  
Nancy Skula, Executive Director, Care House*

One in three females and one in four males are victims of child sexual abuse before they reach the age of 18. With startling statistics like these, it is imperative that communities all over Michigan develop a coordinated community response to child sexual abuse. Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) can provide this valuable service to the community and can help child victims and their families begin the healing process.

The CAC concept began in 1985 in Huntsville, Alabama, bringing the community together to tackle the problem of child sexual abuse. A multidisciplinary team approach brings together the professionals and agencies needed to offer comprehensive services. It includes law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution personnel, mental health professionals and the medical community. This team, with a professional team at the Child Advocacy Center, coordinates the investigation and offers treatment, support and guidance services to child victims and their families.

Before the CAC concept, child victims endured multiple interviews, telling their stories to many different professionals and reliving the abuse over and over again. CACs reduce the number of interviews so that child victims tell their stories only once, to the entire professional team. A trained interviewer facilitates this process using unbiased, non-leading questions in a child-friendly

environment. This lessens the trauma to the child and the family.

Given that children are naturally trusting and enjoy adults’ attention and affection, perpetrators of child sexual abuse are often adults who the victims know and trust. Physical force is seldom used and there are rarely witnesses to the crime. Perpetrators often threaten their victims, demanding that they remain silent about their “secret.” Consequently, child victims are usually confused, ashamed, guilt-ridden and afraid.

To help these children deal with the wide range of possible feelings, problems and behaviors, specialized sexual abuse treatment is usually recommended. This may be individual or group treatment and may include a variety of effective, age-appropriate interventions such as play therapy, art therapy, music, role playing, talking, problem solving, or reading stories. The length of treatment varies depending on the needs of each child. In addition to minimizing the crime’s effects and facilitating recovery, CAC therapists may also attempt to prepare the child for court and may teach prevention skills to reduce the chance of future assaults.

Non-offending family members are usually considered secondary victims of child sexual abuse. The discovery of this crime often throws the entire family into chaos, thus increasing the child’s existing distress. Non-offending parents often experience guilt, anger, self-blame and

denial, and need help in separating their own issues from those of the child. They usually have many questions regarding sexual abuse, as well as about the investigation, criminal justice and treatment processes. And, of course, most are unsure of how they can best help the victimized child. Siblings too can experience a variety of problems related to abuse and can benefit from treatment. CACs can provide families with important information, education, treatment and support.

Providing services to non-offending parents and siblings is also important to the primary victim’s care. Parents and siblings play vital roles in the victim’s recovery process. We know that children who are believed and supported by their family members have the best opportunities for positive treatment outcomes. Therefore, by providing services to non-offending family members, CACs can help families provide primary victims with the protection, reassurances and love that are critical to the healing process.

In Michigan there are over 14 operating Child Advocacy Centers. These centers consist of full and associate members of the National Children’s Alliance, with many new task forces beginning each year. To find out more about these centers or to begin a center in your community, contact Susan Heartwell, president of the Michigan Chapter of the National Children’s Alliance, at (616) 771-6400.

# Creative Funding Benefits Two Women’s Centers

Over the last few decades, the number of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault seeking services has increased. Consequently, many VOCA grantees have needed to find additional resources to provide these services. In northern Michigan, two agencies have developed creative funding sources with notable success: Women’s Center, Inc. (Marquette) and the Women’s Resource Center (Traverse City). In the following two articles, Suzanne Kensington, Executive Director of Women’s Center, Inc., and Mary Lee Lord, Executive Director of the Women’s Resource Center, describe the history of their respective funding projects.

**Women’s Center, Inc.**  
■ *By Suzanne Kensington, Executive Director*

Located in the Upper Peninsula’s largest city of Marquette, the Women’s Center employs 49 staff members who provide services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in a five-county area, covering more than 5,000 square miles. Since opening its doors in 1973, the organization has grown from a single source annual budget of \$17,000 to a diversely-funded budget of \$2,000,000.

The Women’s Center began as a program of the Department of Continuing Education at Northern Michigan University. In 1980, the university discontinued its funding and the Women’s Center was left without a home or financial support for its services. Thanks to the welcoming arms and donated space of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, along with the encouragement and generous donations from the Marquette community, we began again, only this time as a private, non-profit entity. The experience of nearly having been put out of business inspired the new Women’s Center Board of Directors to seek diversified sources of revenue to support the programs and services.

In 1986, with next to no money down and through the creative financing and signature of one of our committed (and brave) board members, the Women’s Center purchased an old industrial supply building plus bus garage located on a busy street in a not so premium section of town. Community members, labor unions, and the Women’s Center Board and staff dug in, cleaned up and renovated the 15,000-square-foot building and its large adjacent parking lot. The building now houses the center’s administrative and counseling offices, the Women’s Center Resale Shop, the Meeting Place rental hall, and a family-owned, family-operated printing company. Although a printing company may not seem to be a compatible business, it sure is convenient to be able to just walk through a couple of doors for printing jobs that are too large for our copier to handle. The company is a well-established and responsible tenant who always pays the rent on time.

The Meeting Place occupies over 8,000 square feet (two rooms, smoking and non-smoking) and is leased to the public for conferences and meetings. The area seats 450 people at tables and 600 theater-style. The space also includes a large commercial kitchen and two public restrooms. The center hosts a Friday night bingo game, and the hall is leased the other six nights of the week to local organizations for their

fund-raising bingo games. A local concession company rents the kitchen to prepare and sell food and drinks to all the bingo players. The advent of Native American gaming has reduced revenue for all of the non-Native bingo games, but that has been yet another reminder of the importance of diversified funding.

In 1992, the United Way of Michigan closed its offices in the Upper Peninsula and the 1,200 square feet that they had leased in the Women’s Center’s building sat empty for many months following their departure. After some brainstorming (one of our favorite and most productive activities), we put two challenges together — vacant space and an abundance of donated used clothing — and decided to open a resale store. Thanks to the tremendous support of, and consultation with, the Women’s Resource Center in Traverse City, and the Women’s Resource Center of Northern Michigan in Petoskey (both of whom operate successful resale stores), we opened the Women’s Center Resale Shop one year and much planning, re-planning and re-re-planning later.

We would have taken even longer had it not been for Traverse City’s Women’s Resource Center Director Mary Lee Lord’s sage words: “Just open it!” The store has done well —so well in fact, it’s outgrown itself and we are looking for at least 4,000 square feet of retail space elsewhere in town. Our challenge will be to maintain the same artsy, bright, small boutique atmosphere that sets us apart from all of the other resale stores in our area. (Come and see for yourself!) But most importantly, our donors and shoppers know that what they give to us, and buy from us, benefits survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children.

**Women’s Resource Center**  
■ *By Mary Lee Lord, Executive Director*

Founded in Traverse City in 1975, the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) is a full-service agency offering shelter, advocacy, education, essential dry goods and counseling to hundreds of domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Services reach southern Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties and are partly financed by the WRC’s own thrift shop. Gross sales have grown from \$153,855 in fiscal year 1995 to over \$300,000 in 1999. This is the story of how the shop was founded and evolved.

In August of 1983, WRC opened the Treasure Trove Thrift Shop to raise operational funds for a shelter. Green Thumb (a federal, part-time employment program for seniors) and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program provided volunteers who sorted clothing and served as sales clerks. In 1993 the shop was renamed the Thrift Shoppe and relocated to a 2,500-square-foot space. In 1997 the store relocated again, increasing retail space by 50 percent. There are currently plans to move to yet a larger facility within the next five years.

Four full-time and part-time employees manage the store, which is open six days a week. Approximately 25 volunteers assist the agency employees with the daily operation of the shop. The Thrift Shoppe’s volunteer staff includes interested community members as well as individuals needing to complete community service requirements. In addition, some

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## Web Resources

**The National Criminal Justice Reference Service –**  
**<http://virlib.ncjrs.org>**

This website is a federally-sponsored clearinghouse that contains research, policy, and practice information related to victims of crime, criminal justice and a host of other justice-related topics.

**National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children –**  
**<http://www.pomc.com>**

This is the official website for the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children.

**Violence Against Women Office –**  
**<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/>**

This is the official website for the Violence Against Women Office at the United States Department of Justice.

**American Bar Association - Commission on Domestic Violence –**  
**<http://www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html>**

This is the official website for the American Bar Association - Commission on Domestic Violence.

**The Official Office for Victims of Crime Homepage –**  
**<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/welcome.html>**

This is the official website for the Office for Victims of Crime at the United States Department of Justice.